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OREGON WING CIVIL AIR PATROL

Lt Col. Thomas Traver

OREGON WING CONDUCTS EMERGENCY MEDICAL MERCY FLIGHT FOR NEWBORN INFANT

GRANTS PASS, OR

Thanks to the quick response of the Oregon Civil Air Patrol, a new born baby, afflicted with the Varicella Virus, (also known as Chicken Pox) received a crucial immune globulin treatment to fight the disease in less than 14 hours after its birth.

The baby, born at the Three Rivers Hospital in Grants Pass, Oregon was diagnosed that it had been exposed to the Varicella Virus. Nationwide statistics show that infants born exposed to the virus have 50% mortality rate. The infant needed a Varicella immune globulin treatment within 24 hours to increase its chances of survival.

Lt Scott Bartholomew from Metropolitan Senior Squadron in Portland, picked up the immune globulin at Oregon Health Sciences University and flew it to Grants Pass. Lt Col George Doersch, Mission Commander, had arranged for 2Lt Dave Gray and Col Virginia Thompson to meet Lt Bartholomew at the Portland airport and transport the globulin to the Grants Pass hospital by CAP aircraft.

The mission request was received from AFRCC (Air Force Rescue Coordination Center located at Langley, VA) at 3pm Saturday. Lt. Bartholomew was airborne a little after 4pm and the medication was at the hospital by 6:30pm.

A hospital spokesman said the CAP had the medication to the hospital in less than 14 hours after the birth of the infant. Hospital staff stated the infant was doing fine on Monday August 25th. The names of the family are being withheld at their request for privacy.

The Civil Air Patrol is the civilian, volunteer auxiliary of the United States Air Force and conducts over 85% of all air search and rescue missions tasked by the ARFCC. In addition, the CAP works with the office of Homeland Security and also conducts medical mercy flights such as medication, blood and transplant organ transport.

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